

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 28, 2004. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claim 8 has been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-7 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claim 1 is in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,315,468 (Kishida et al.); rejected Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishida et al., and rejected Claims 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Kishida et al., in view of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-2056 (Tanabe et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that independent Claim 1, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, is patentably distinct from Kishida et al. at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a recording apparatus for causing a recording unit to record on a sheet or a disc. The recording apparatus includes a carriage for mounting the recording unit thereon and for conveying the recording unit, a guide member for guiding the conveyance of the carriage, and a platen for guiding a rear surface of the sheet or a tray on which the disc is mounted, at a position opposed to the recording unit. The apparatus also includes a lifting mechanism for changing an interval between the recording unit and the platen, the lifting mechanism being capable of lifting the guide member irrespective of a position of the carriage, a cleaning

unit for maintaining/recovering a function of the recording unit, and a control means for changing the interval between the recording unit and the platen to a predetermined one when the cleaning unit executes a cleaning operation.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the lifting mechanism changes an interval between the recording unit and the platen by lifting the guide member irrespective of a position of the carriage, and the control means changes the interval between the recording unit and the platen to a predetermined one when a cleaning unit executes a cleaning operation. Since the guide member can be lifted irrespective of the position of the carriage, the cleaning unit can clean the recording unit even while recording is being performed on a disc.

Kishida et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to an ink jet recording apparatus that includes a platen-gap (PG) regulator. Kishida et al. discusses that when a cleaning control signal is outputted, a carriage 1 is moved to a position in which a platen gap PG exists, as shown in Fig. 1, and then when a paper-feeding motor starts to rotate, the gap PG is narrowed (see, e.g., col. 8, lines 54 -61). However, Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Kishida et al. that would teach or suggest that an interval between a recording unit and a platen is changed by lifting a guide member irrespective of carriage position, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least for this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over Kishida et al.

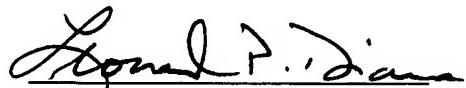
A review of the other art of record, including Tanabe et al., has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against independent Claim 1, and that claim is therefore respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from Claim 1, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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